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MINISTER PRENTICE ANNOUNCES NEW CHAIR OF THE YUKON ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT BOARD

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OTTAWA (June 29, 2007) - The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, today announced the appointment of Mr. John Kenneth McKinnon to the position of Chair of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board (YESAB).

"Mr. McKinnon's career is distinguished by long-time dedication to his profession and service to his community," said Minister Prentice. "For over forty years, Mr. McKinnon has made substantial and significant contributions to the development of the Yukon Territory. We look forward to Mr. McKinnon's leadership in continuing the good work of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board."

Mr. McKinnon brings considerable experience in the Yukon Legislative Assembly to his new position as well as recent experience as Chancellor of Yukon College. Mr. McKinnon has also served as Director of the Arctic Institute of North America (1987 to 1994), Commissioner of the Yukon (1986 to 1995), Member of the Task Force on Northern Conservation (1983 to 1984) and Yukon Administrator of the Northern Pipeline Agency (1979 to 1984).

YESAB is responsible for delivering an assessment process that reflects the interests of all citizens and regional stakeholders. It is an independent organization mandated to implement the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act which outlines assessment processes for regional projects with environmental and socio-economic implications.

Created in 2004, YESAB has seven Board members and is responsible for carrying out an assessment process that is delivered through its designated offices, the Executive Committee and Panels of the Board. The Executive Committee of the Board is composed of the Chair and two Board members and is tasked with specific administrative and assessment responsibilities under the Act.

Biographical note - Mr. John Kenneth (Ken) McKinnon

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